

HONORING SAMUEL LEE AYERS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel Lee Ayers, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Samuel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Samuel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Samuel Lee Ayers for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE  
CORPS**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, March 1, 2008 marks the 47th anniversary of the Peace Corps. It is only fitting that we pause to congratulate this tremendous organization and all of its volunteers for the incredible work they do on behalf of millions of people around the world.

Since 1961, over 190,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 139 countries. As teachers and consultants, they bring a broad range of intellectual acumen to concerns as diverse as business, economic development, health care education, and agricultural improvement. Their dedication speaks to the highest ideals of our Nation; it shows our global neighbors the true face of American compassion and generosity.

Currently, there are 18 citizens of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina volunteering their time in countries around the world ranging from Romania to Jamaica: Coy Beale, Christopher Belser, Erin Curtis, Michael Edmonds, Lee Enzastiga, David Hart, Rebecca Hartz, Karla Hoppmann, Amanda Jackson, Danielle Kuczkowski, Lucy Marcil, Ingrid Martens, Cynthia McDonald, Carol Preston, Crystal Reardon, Alexis Serna, Phillip Shealy, and Erin Swails.

I am grateful for their service and wish to recognize their tremendous efforts. These leaders and their fellow Peace Corps volunteers deserve our utmost respect.

Congratulations to the Peace Corps on its 47th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO DOMINICAN HERITAGE  
MONTH ON THE 164TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF THE  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I join with the hundreds of thousands of Dominican residents of my congressional district and across our Nation to commemorate today, February 27th, the 164th anniversary of the Dominican Republic's Day of Independence. This celebration comes at the tail end of what has been a momentous Dominican Heritage Month.

Dominican Heritage Month gave us the opportunity to acknowledge and applaud the economic, cultural, and social contributions Dominican Americans have made to this great Nation. Dominicans living in our shores have been motivated by the value of hard work and the bonds of family—the same pillars of our society that has built this great Nation for over 230 years.

It also gave us an opportunity to consider the many Dominican achievements, on the island and in the United States. Many of our hemisphere's first institutions were established on the shores of Quisqueya, including the first cathedral and the oldest university.

Since the initial wave of Dominican migration in the 1960's to the most recent arrivals of today, Dominicans have worked hard to contribute to our national identity, educating us all on their culture and traditions and enriching the quality of our shared futures. Their contributions can also be found in every facet of U.S. life—from the many baseball stars in our national pastime, to fashion legend Oscar de la Renta to the thousands of professionals that do battle as soldiers, doctors, lawyers, journalists, educators, and public servants.

This past year, the Dominican community and I shared the loss of our fallen soldier, Cpl. Juan Alcantara, who lost his life tragically on August 6, 2007 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. We also shared the grief of Hurricane Noel, the deadliest storm of the 2007 hurricane season, responsible for at least 140 deaths and the displacement of more than 80,000 people in the Dominican Republic.

The Dominican people are known to triumph in the face of tragedy. They first began their campaign for the independence of the Dominican Republic in 1831 under the leadership of Juan Pablo Duarte, who formed a secret society named The Trinity. Thirteen years later, he succeeded in commanding a decisive uprising, which resulted in independence for the Dominican Republic. After the long and hard campaign for freedom had ended, a ceremonial musket shot fired on February 27, 1844 marked the Dominican Republic's first official Independence Day.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in marking this celebration of not just the independence and triumphs of the Dominican people, but also the invaluable impact that they have had on our Nation and the world.

HONORING LAURIE SULLIVAN

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness over the untimely passing of Laurie D. Sullivan due to breast cancer. Laurie was a successful female entrepreneur in the world of advocacy. More importantly, she is remembered for her love of life, family, friends, colleagues, and politics. I am grateful for our friendship and the laughs that we shared.

Laurie grew up in a union household in Connecticut, where her political roots took hold. She was a Democratic activist during high school and college. She represented Connecticut as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1972, serving as the youngest delegate ever at that time. She received her education at the University of Connecticut School of Law with highest honors. Laurie spent a decade doing legal and government relations work at Aetna's corporate headquarters in Connecticut. During this time, she cultivated strong ties to the Connecticut delegation in Congress.

Laurie built her influence through a long history of Democratic Party activism, in Washington, DC, as well as Connecticut. After moving from Connecticut to Washington, DC, she first co-founded Sullivan & Baldick, and then separated from that firm in 2002 to found Avenue Solutions, a small and successful all-female, all-Democratic firm that specializes in health and financial services lobbying. Avenue Solutions is notable for its individual attention and service given to clients. On behalf of those clients, Laurie played a leading role with Democrats on numerous legislative issues, including healthcare reform, Medicare expansion, legal reform, pension relief, and telecommunications.

Today I rise to pay tribute to Laurie Sullivan's outstanding career and life achievements. Laurie combined her commitment to political and legislative advocacy with a love of life and dedication to her family throughout her courageous battle with cancer. She lived by her words, "It is the quality of life, not the quantity." She will be dearly missed for her candor, devotion, and her ability to step back, take a deep breath and smile.

HONORING TYLER EVAN ARTHUR

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Evan Arthur, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tyler has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.